Demands of Kashmiri Hindus

630. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news report which appeared in Pioneer of the 11th June, 1992 that Kashmiri Hindus are demanding Union Territory status for their homeland in the area northeast of the Jhelum river in Kashmir valley; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the demand in proper perspective with a view to giving a home-land and peace to this uprooted ethnic minority in the valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The Government has seen the press report in question.

(b) The Government does not favour division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Relief to the Kashmiri migrants to take care of their basic needs is, however, being provided.

Shortage of wood for cremation grounds in Delhi

631. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civic authorities in Delhi are finding it difficult to supply wood for cremation grounds in Delhi, as reported in the Indian Express dated the 21st June, 1992;

(b) whether the MCD have not provided sufficient electric crematoria to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when all the crematoria would be turned electrically operated; and

(d) what other measures Government propose to take in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has provided an electric crematorium at Ring Road near Old Yamuna Bridge. Another Crematorium at Panjabi Bahg cremation ground is about to be completed. An electric crematorium is planned at Green Park. The construction of additional crematoria depends upon the availaiblity of funds, acceptance by the people and demand from the people of the area. MCD has also reported that electric crematoria are not so popular among people as conventional cremation grounds because of religious susceptibilities.

Militant outfits in Kashmir

632. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the militant out-fits perpetrating terrorism in Kashmir;

(b) whether any of them, especially the pro-independence group, have offered to lay-down arms and to come out for talk and isolate the pro-pak elements; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a)